

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 713

S E C R E T CAIRO 2965

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR EG IS US

SUBJECT: E-1 SITE

REF: (A) STATE 053523, (B) CAIRO 2932, (C) CAIRO 2803

1. USG TECHNICAL TEAM MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO CANCEL PLANS TO VISIT E-1 SITE AS DIRECTED REFTEL A. WE WILL SO INFORM EGYPTIANS THIS MORNING (MARCH 5).

2. US CONTRACT TECHNICAL MEMBER OF ORIGINAL SIX-MAN TEAM OF E-1 IS PRESENTLY IN US ON LEAVE. NO CONTRACT PERSONNEL ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN EGYPT FOR E-1 PROJECT EARLIER THAN LATTER PART OF WEEK OF MARCH 15.

3. ANTENNA IN QUESTION IS INTEGRAL PART OF COMINT OPERATION AND SHOULD BE INSTALLED ASAP. USG TECHNICAL TEAM OPINION IS THAT IT SHOULD BE INSTALLED AND ERECTED UNDER SUPERVISION OF QUALIFIED AMERICAN PERSONNEL). IF USG TECHNICAL TEAM IS NOT PERMITTED TO DO THIS, THEN US CONTRACT TECHNICIANS SHOULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO EGYPT EARLIER THAN SCHEDULED DATE ABOVE.

4. OTHERWISE, OPTIONS WOULD APPEAR TO BE:

A) ALLOW UNSUPERVISED EGYPTIANS TO ATTEMPT OPERATION WITH RISK OF DAMAGE TO SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT,

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B) DELAY OPERATION UNTIL US CONTRACT PERSONNEL

COULD BE BROUGHT BACK FROM US ACCORDING PLANNED SCHEDULE, OR

C) ALLOW USG TECHNICAL TEAM TO RETURN TO SITE ON OR
ABOVE PLANNED DATES (REF B). PLEASE NOTE ANTENNA HARDWARE
NEEDED TO COMPLETE TOWER ERECTION IS DUE CAIRO EVENING MARCH 6.
PLEASE ADVISE.

5. COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WE HAVE NEVER TOLD EGYPTIANS
THAT WHEN USG TECHNICAL TEAM CAME BACK FROM E-1, IT WOULD NEVER
RETURN. IF USG HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO OVERSEE ESTABLISHMENT
OF E-1 OPERATION, THEN WE WOULD HAVE TO EXPECT TO SEND BACK USG
TECHNICIANS TO MONITOR WORK OF CONTRACTORS (REF C). MOREOVER,
EGYPTIANS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE PUZZLED BY THIS CURRENT
ACTION IN LIGHT OF FULL COOPERATION USG HAS PROVIDED IN
ORDER GET E-1 PROJECT OFF TO EXCELLENT START.
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